

# **City of Rockville Environment Commission**

## **Watersheds Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday January 17, 2012**

**Blue Crab, Rockville City Hall**

**7:15 pm**

**Meeting Attendance:** Julie Palakovich Carr, Anne Goodman, Steve Cardon, Joe Arrowsmith, Heather Gewandter (Staff)

### **1. Environment Commission Report**

- Julie Palakovich Carr reported:
  - The December Environment Commission meeting focused on activities related to the City's involvement in Sustainable Maryland Certified. The citizen survey on sustainability is now online (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/DNVHDZW>).
  - The High Performance Building Tax Credit is set to go before the Mayor and Council on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. If the Mayor and Council decide to introduce, it will have a public comment period.
  - The Environment Commission is again tabling the environmental excellence award for Montgomery College.
  - There was a follow-up to the September retreat. The group reviewed goals and priorities for the next 12-18 months.
  - The Environment Commission would like to invite City Council members to their meeting to discuss priorities.

### **2. Environmental Management Division Report**

- Heather Gewandter reported:
  - EMD is moving forward on hiring the Environmental Policy position and the Watershed Protection Specialist position. We hope to have both filled by the beginning of February.

### **3. Planning for Spring Stream Cleanup**

- The Spring Adopt-A-Stream cleanup date for Maryvale Park is proposed for April 14<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 A.M. to noon. The Watershed Committee will help with advertising for the event on the local blogs, etc.

### **4. Discussion of How the Watershed Committee Can Support the Environment Commission's Strategic Goals**

- The Environment Commission settled on the following goals for 2012:
  - Green Team for Sustainable Maryland Certified
  - High Performance tax credit implementation
  - Increase the recycling rate
  - Green building code updates
  - Environment element of the City's master plan
  - Better engage City Council
  - Work with schools on outreach
  - Earth day event promotion
  - Multi-City board
  - Promote Tree rebates
  - Hometown Holidays
  - Citizen survey
  - Stream cleanups
- While watershed related activities did not, for the most part, make it to the priority list for the entire Environmental Commission, they are very important to the Watershed Committee members.
- Suggest starting ad hoc workgroups around the specific priorities and goals outlined by the Environment Commission while maintaining the Watershed Committee. It is important to maintain the Watershed Committee in order to have support for the on-the-ground programs and to have a point of contact for citizens to get involved.
- The Watershed Committee would continue to support water related activities like stream cleanups, SOS and watershed study public meetings. These events could be the "standing" meeting for some months.
- Committee members would also participate in one or more ad hoc workgroups.
- Committee members understand that EMD cannot staff the standing committees and the ad hoc groups. Members will think of ways to be strategic when using EMD staff time.
- The Committee members will put the Watershed Committee accomplishments on paper to show the group's value.

## **5. Sustainable Maryland Certified – Review and Discussion of Revised Draft Report Sections**

- The Committee has drafted six sections of the application.
- The finishing touches will be put on two write-ups and they will be sent, via Julie, to Erica Shingara.

- Heather Gewandter will fill in some volunteer numbers for Steve Cardon's write-up and email it to Julie.

## **6. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

The next Watersheds Committee meeting is scheduled for  
**Tuesday, February 21, 2012 at 7:15 pm**  
**in the Blue Crab conference room at Rockville City Hall**  
**111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland, 20850.**